

Gardner Parks and Recreation Department

Adult Softball Bylaws

Objective

The object of this program is to provide the opportunity for men and women to play softball in an organized league designed to emphasize recreation, fair play, and sportsmanship. The league is organized and conducted to provide a wholesome experience for all concerned. Sponsors, coaches, players, and spectators all contribute to the quality of the program. Gestures of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

General Information

1. The GPRD Recreation Supervisor, or his assigns, has the authority to enforce Gardner Parks and Recreation league rules and facility rules.
2. The GPRD Recreation Supervisor has the authority to enforce the sportsmanship policy of the Department. The updated sportsmanship policy will be provided to each team manager prior to the first game.
3. Managers are requested to notify the Gardner Parks and Recreation Department when you know in advance that you must forfeit a game. This will enable the Department to notify the opposing team and prevent an unnecessary trip to the park.
4. A coin flip at the beginning of the first game will determine who the home and visiting teams will be.
5. **Alcohol of any kind is NOT allowed at Celebration Park.** This includes playing field, dugouts, outside of the field, etc. Violators of this rule will bring about suspensions and forfeits pertaining to that particular team.
6. In case of inclement weather or wet diamonds, managers and players may call the rainout line, 913-905-1770, after **4:00 p.m.** on the day of the game to determine the status of games.
7. The Gardner Parks and Recreation Department will post standings weekly on our website at www.gardnerkansas.gov. The top two teams will be awarded shirts after the league is finished. Tiebreakers will be head to head, runs allowed, runs for, and then a coin flip; if necessary (this applies to games between the teams playing for the awards).

Rules of the Game

1. Official USSSA rules will apply unless noted in these bylaws.
2. All participants must be 18 years of age or older.
3. Each player must personally sign the team roster prior to participation.
4. A player may only play on one team.
5. A player may not transfer from one team to another within the same league, unless given permission by both coaches **AND** the Recreation Supervisor.

6. If protested, teams will forfeit any games in which non-roster players participate.
7. Teams may not add additional players to the roster after the fourth official game of the season.
8. Game time is forfeit time.
9. Pitchers are allowed 5 warm-up pitches before the first inning and one warm-up pitch between innings.
10. Infielders are allowed to throw ground balls before the first inning, while the pitcher takes his warm-up pitches. After the first inning, infield practice is not allowed.
11. Rubber cleats may be worn, but metal spikes are **NOT** allowed.
12. The minimum number of players required to start a game is eight, 4 male and 4 female. Players arriving late may be inserted at the end of the line-up anytime, as long as there is an even number of male and female players to add. Extra hitters may not be added late. Players may drop to less than eight in case of an injury **ONLY**.
13. Co-Ed teams may play with a maximum of 12 players; 10 players in the field and 1 male extra hitter and 1 female extra hitter. There must be an even number of male players and female players in the lineup and on the field at all times. Teams may not have two men batting consecutively.
14. Run rules will be (15) after three innings of play (or two and a half innings if the home team is ahead by 15 or more), and (10) after five innings of play (or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more).
15. No new innings shall begin after 60 minutes have elapsed. **EXCEPTION:** If the game is tied after seven innings of play, or after the time limit has expired, the game will continue until there is a winner.
16. It is the responsibility of the managers to discuss and clarify the ground rules with the umpires before each game.
17. Each team will provide one 12" USSSA approved game ball and each team will hit the ball they furnish. **These are blue stitch balls only (.47 Core).** **EXCEPTION:** Co-Ed teams must furnish one 12" ball as well as one 11" ball.
18. The Gardner Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to remove any player or team from the competition for the entire season, or subsequent seasons, or subsequent activities, if necessary, for directing harmful or abusive language at officials, Department staff, or individuals of the opposing team and for unsportsmanlike conduct of any form.
19. **Each player is required to bring positive I.D. to the ballpark in case his identification is protested.** It will be the manager's responsibility to protest a player's identity to either the official scorekeeper or the field supervisor. The protest must be made either before the game, or while the game is in progress. Once the game is over, player I.D. protests will not be allowed. If the player in question is unable to produce positive identification (State Driver's License), and the game has not yet started, the player is removed from the line up. If the player has started, the game is declared a forfeit.
20. Umpires are not required to work games that are, for whatever reason, declared a forfeit.
21. Any ball that can't be played from within the fenced field of play is declared out of play.

22. A fair ball that bounces over or goes through the outside fence is a ground rule double.
23. Umpires and Facility Supervisor's decisions are final and protests of umpire's judgments are not allowed. The site supervisor has the authority to correct any correctable errors that may occur during the course of a game. Team Managers need to bring correctable errors to the attention of the umpire immediately. Protests on rule interpretations are discouraged, but must be made at the time of the ruling. A \$15.00 fee will be charged at the time of the protest. No protest will be accepted without this fee and a full description of events turned in to the Recreation Supervisor within 48 hours of the game. The protest committee will reach a decision within one week of the game.
24. **A team is allowed (2) home runs per game. Any ball hit OVER the fence after the home runs allotted, shall be an out.**
25. The pitched ball must arch at least 3 feet, after leaving the pitcher's hand and before it passes any part of home plate. The pitched ball shall not rise higher than 10 feet above the ground. The ball must be pitched underhanded at a slow speed, as designated in the USSSA Handbook.
26. Each batter coming to home plate will begin with a one ball, and one strike count.

Sportsmanship Policy

Purpose: To define un-sportsmanlike behaviors which are inappropriate in Department sponsored sports and to set for procedures, penalties and appeals.

Policy: It shall be the policy of the Department not to tolerate un-sportsmanlike behaviors in any sports programs that are originated by the City.

Definitions: The following types of behaviors are considered un-sportsmanlike and are deemed inappropriate for those participating in sports programs provided by the City of Gardner, Parks and Recreation Department. These behaviors will not be tolerated:

1. **The consumption of alcoholic beverages on the facilities by participants and/or spectators.**
2. **Any participant and/or spectator in an intoxicated condition.**
3. **Any behavior in which the intent is to inflict or threaten physical harm to another person (player, coach, official, site supervisor, spectator, etc.) This includes, but is not limited to, throwing a piece of equipment at another person, fighting, pushing, or shoving between players, officials, site supervisors, and/or spectators, etc.**

3/12/2007